

CLAIMS

1. A method of binding a stack of sheets comprising:
  - providing first and second end leafs, with each end leaf including first
  - 5 and second sheet segments separated by a fold, with each sheet segment
  - having dimensions that generally correspond to dimensions of the sheets of the
  - stack of sheets;
  - disposing the stack of sheets intermediate the first and second end
  - leafs, with the folds of the end leafs being positioned proximate an edge of the
  - 10 stack to be bound and with the second sheet segments of the first and second
  - end leafs being positioned adjacent the stack;
  - applying molten hot melt adhesive to the edge of the stack and to the
  - first and second end leafs;
  - securing an elongated spine member to the edge of the stack by way of
  - 15 the molten hot melt adhesive;
  - exposing first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive
  - subsequent to the securing;
  - attaching a first edge of the elongated spine member to the first sheet
  - segment of the first end leaf by way of the first segment of pressure sensitive
  - 20 adhesive; and
  - attaching a second edge of the elongated spine member, opposite the
  - first edge, to the first sheet segment of the second end leaf by way of the
  - second segment of the pressure sensitive adhesive.
- 25 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
  - providing a hard cover assembly including first and second relatively
  - rigid hardcover sections separated by a spine segment, with the first hardcover
  - section including a first pressure sensitive adhesive layer and with the second
  - hardcover section including a second pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

attaching the first hardcover section to the first sheet segment of the first end leaf by way of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer; and attaching the second cover section to the first sheet segment of the second end leaf by way of the second pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

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3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the attaching the first hard cover section includes:

exposing only a portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer to produce a first exposed portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer;

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bringing the first sheet segment of the first end leaf and the first exposed portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another;

exposing a second portion of the first pressure sensitive adhesive layer so as to produce an exposed second portion of the first pressure sensitive

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adhesive layer; and

bringing the first sheet segment of the first end leaf and the exposed second portion of the first layer of pressure sensitive adhesive layer into contact with one another.

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4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive are disposed along the respective first and second edges of the elongated spine support structure, with the first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive being covered by respective first and second release liners and wherein the securing includes wrapping the spine member around the edge of the stack and wherein the exposing includes separating the first and second release liners from the first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive.

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5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the wrapping is carried out by a

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conventional binding machine of the type that wraps a conventional cover

around a stack of sheets and wherein the elongated spine member and the first and second release liners are embodied in a configuration having a form factor a conventional cover.

5     6.     The method of Claim 5 wherein the sheets of the stack have a length and a width and the configuration form factor has one dimension that generally corresponds the length and a second dimension that generally corresponds to at least twice the width.

10    7.     The method of Claim 1 wherein the first segment of pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the first end leaf and the second segment of pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the second end leaf, with the first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive being covered by release liners and wherein the exposing includes separating the first and second release liners  
15    from the first and second segments of pressure sensitive adhesive.

8.     The method of Claim 7 wherein the wrapping is carried out by a conventional binding machine of the type that wraps a conventional cover around a stack of sheets and wherein the elongated spine member and the  
20    first and second release liners are embodied in a configuration having a form factor of a conventional cover.

9.     The method of Claim 8 wherein the sheets of the stack have a length and a width and the configuration form factor has one dimension that generally  
25    corresponds the length and a second dimension that generally corresponds to at least twice the width.

10.    A binding apparatus for use in binding a stack of sheets using a conventional binder that operates to wrap a conventional cover around the  
30    stack of sheets, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated spine member;  
first and second pressure sensitive adhesive segments extending along  
respective first and second edges of the elongated spine member;

first and second release liner disposed over the respective first and  
5 second pressure activated adhesive segments, with the spine member, the first  
and second pressure sensitive adhesive segment and the first and second  
release liners being embodied in a configuration having a form factor similar to  
a form factor of the conventional cover.

10 11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the sheets of the stack have a  
a length and a width and the configuration form factor has one dimension that  
generally corresponds the length and a second dimension that generally  
corresponds to at least twice the width.

15 12. An apparatus of use in binding a stack of sheets comprising:  
an end leaf including first and second sheet segments separated  
by a fold, with each sheet segment having dimensions that generally  
correspond to dimensions of the sheets of the stack;  
a spacer member attached to the end leaf and extending from  
20 the end leaf past the fold;  
a segment of pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the end  
leaf proximate to the fold and extending in a direction generally parallel to the  
fold; and  
a release liner disposed over the segment of pressure sensitive  
25 adhesive.

13. A binding apparatus for use in binding a stack of sheets using a  
conventional binder of the type that operates to apply molten hot melt  
adhesive to an edge of the stack and to wrap a conventional cover around the  
30 stack of sheets, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated spine member having openings that permit the molten hot melt adhesive to flow through the structure; and

- 5 a release sheet attached to the spine member, with the release sheet and the spine member having a form factor which generally corresponds to that of the conventional cover and wherein the release sheet is comprised of a material such that the release sheet can be manually separated from spine member after application of molten adhesive has been applied to the spine member without damaging the spine member.

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